Places in the Holy Quran

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Places in the Holy Quran

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Message from Sadr Sahibah

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

Dear children,

اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

I hope and pray that you enjoy this book about the places mentioned in the Holy Quran. These places are not only interesting locations to read about but are mentioned in the Holy Quran for us to learn lessons from. Some of these places are very holy and are associated with great Prophets of Allah and some of these places are infamous due to the punishment its people received for disobeying Almighty Allah.

May Allah enable us to ponder over the events that took place in the various locations mentioned in this book and to understand the moral of the stories.

May Allah enable us all to improve our nearness to Allah the Almighty so that we feel His presence with us in every step of our lives. Ameen

Wasalaam

Lots of love,

Qurratul-Ain Anni Rehman

Serving as Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, our thanks and praise are due to Almighty Allah without Whose boundless Grace and Blessings none of our work would be possible.

Lajna Ima'illah UK is privileged to receive the nurturing support and direct advice of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}. This inspires us daily and we earnestly pray that we continue to enjoy this Grace of Allah. Ameen

I am grateful to Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK, Dr Qurratul-Ain Anni Rehman Sahibah for her numerous prayers and steady guidance on this project. A team of lajna members in the Ishaat department, co-ordinated by Mrs. Qudsia Ward worked together to produce this series of books for young children.

Sitwat Mirza, Nayyara Ahmad Qamar, Atifa Ahmad and Saiha Maaz from the writing team require a special mention for their splendid work together, sharing knowledge and experience in the process of producing these books.

May Almighty Allah bless them all and enable them to continue to work successfully in the service of jamaat.

Mrs. Lubna Sohail

Serving as National Secretary Isha'at UK

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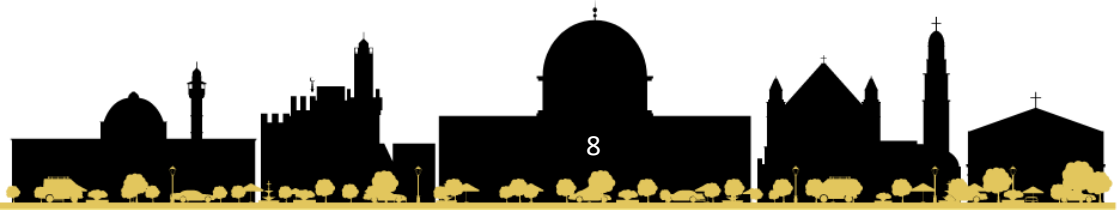
Dear children, there are many places that are mentioned in the Holy Quran. In this book, we will be looking at examples from all around the world.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

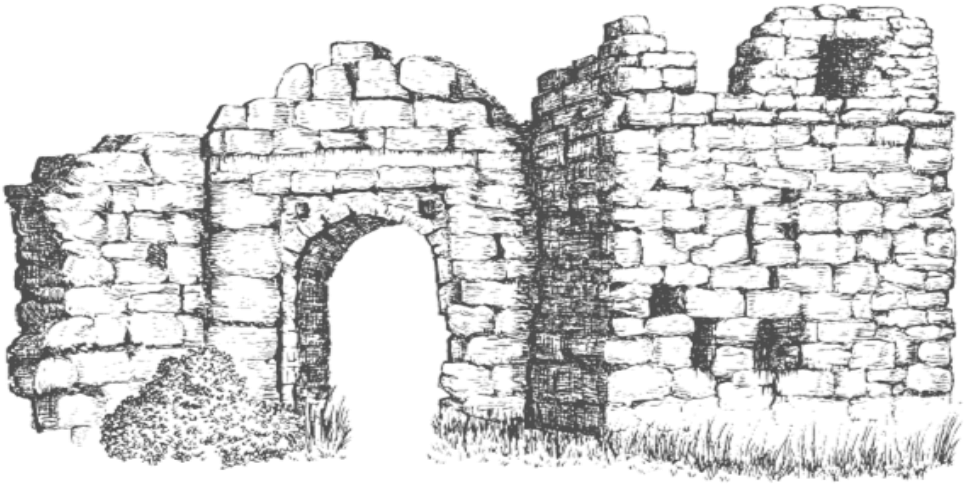
In Chapter 72, verse 19 of the Holy Quran, Allah the Almighty states:

And *all* places of worship belong to Allah; so call not on anyone beside Allah.



BABYLON

Babylon was an ancient city located in southern Mesopotamia, Iraq. It is about 85 km from modern day Baghdad. This city no longer exists. Only its ruins remain in Iraq.

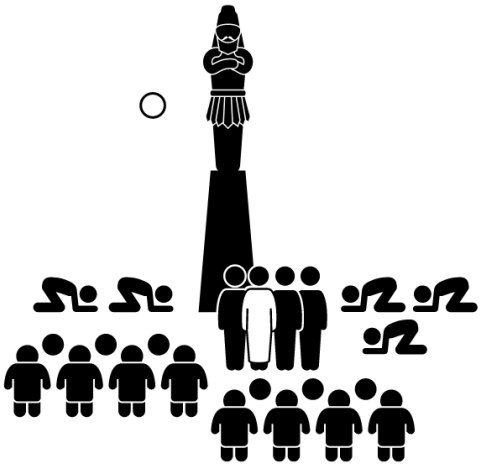


HAZRAT DHUL-KIFL(AS)

Dhul-Kifl is the Arabic form of Ezekiel[1]; he was a prophet of Allah who was sent to Babylon. He preached to stop the worship of idols and stop injustice to people.

ذو الكفل

Hazrat Dhul-Kifl (as) had a vision that the town of Jerusalem, that had been destroyed, would be rebuilt by the Children of Israel in the future.



CANAAN

Hazrat Ishaq(as) and Hazrat Yaqub(as) were sent as messengers to Canaan.

إسحاق

يَعقُوب

HIJR

Hijr was a place situated between Tabuk and Medina. The place was mainly built with

stones, hence the name “Hijr”. On one occasion, when the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) arrived at Hijr during the battle of Tabuk, he ordered his companions not to drink water from its well or reserve water from it because this settlement was the place of divine punishment.

TABUK

Hazrat Salih (as) was a Prophet of God who was sent to the people of Thamud, a tribe that lived after 'Ad, located in the western part of Arabia. The Holy Quran states that there was a party of nine mischief-mongers in Hazrat Salih's (as) city who would not reform themselves and were bent on their ways. These people planned to attack Hazrat Salih (as) and his family at night. The Holy Quran states that their evil plan failed and was "utterly destroyed."

In Surah Hud, verse 62 of the Holy Quran it states what Hazrat Salih (as) said to the people of Thamud:

'O my people worship Allah; you have no God but Him. He raised you up from the earth, and settled you therein. So ask forgiveness of Him, then turn to Him *whole-heartedly...*'

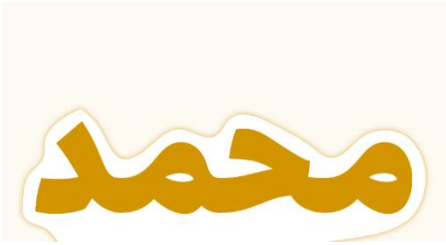
JERUSALEM

Jerusalem is often known as a holy place for Judaism, Christianity and Islam. In the Holy Quran, it is mentioned as the ‘Distant Mosque’.

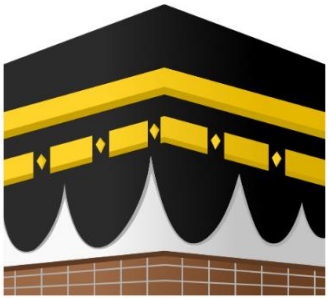
In Surah Bani Israil, verse 2 of the Holy Quran, Allah the Almighty states:

Glory be to Him Who carried His servant by night from the Sacred Mosque to the Distant Mosque, the environs of which We have blessed, that We might show him *some* of Our Signs. Surely, He alone is the Hearing, the Seeing.

The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) undertook a spiritual night journey to Jerusalem, which occurred eleven or twelve years after the advent of his prophethood.[2] His journey to "The Distant Mosque" may also be meant as his journey to Medina where he was to build a Mosque, which was to become later on the Central Mosque of Islam.



MAKKAH



Did you know that the sacred mosque, Masjid Al- Haram, that is in Makkah has been mentioned in the Holy Quran in 15 verses?

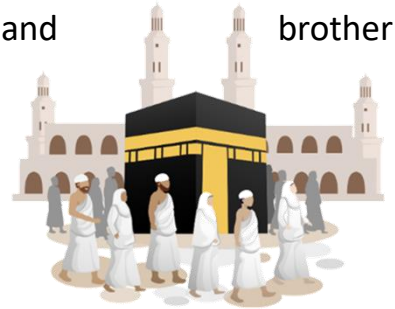
In Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 145 of the Holy Quran, Allah the Almighty states:

"Verily, We see thee turning thy face often to heaven; surely, then, will We make thee turn to the Qiblah which thou likest. So, turn thy face towards the Sacred Mosque; and wherever you be, turn your faces towards it. And they to whom the Book has been given know that this is the truth from their Lord; and Allah is not unmindful of what they do."

Salat is one of the five pillars of Islam. Allah has instructed Muslims to pray five times a day facing the Qibla which is in the direction of the Ka'bah.

Another one of the five pillars of Islam is Hajj. The Quran instructs all Muslims to perform the Pilgrimage to Makkah once in their lifetime if they can afford it, are in good health and the journey is safe.

Muslims from all around the world come together every year to perform Hajj. The Pilgrimage is a symbol of the Unity of God and brotherhood between all Muslims.



MASJID AL-HARAM

Dear children, can you believe that Ka’bah was rebuilt by two special Prophets of Allah, Hazrat Ibrahim (as) and his son, Hazrat Ismail (as)?

This is mentioned in this Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 128 of the Holy Quran:

And *remember the time* when Abraham and Ishmael raised the foundations of the House, *praying*, 'Our Lord, accept *this* from us; for Thou art All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

Do you know the five pillars of Islam?

Match the pictures to the correct words.

Shahadah

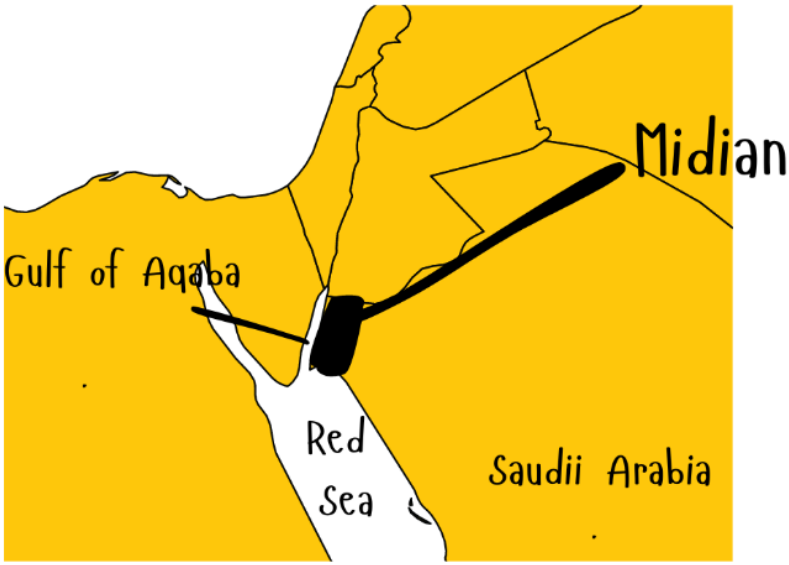
Salah

Zakat

Sawm

Hajj

MIDIAN



Have you ever heard of a place called Midian?

Midian was a son of Hazrat Ibrahim (as) from his third wife, Hazrat Keturah. His descendants were all called Midianites. Their metropolis was also called Midian.

This town was situated on the Gulf of ‘Aqabah, on the Arabian coast, at a distance of some six or seven miles from the sea. The descendants of Midian lived in the north of the Hijaz and it is they who built this town.

It was there that Hazrat Musa (as) fled for refuge from Pharaoh and it was in the neighbourhood of Midian that he stayed with the Israelites after crossing the Red Sea.

HAZRAT SHU'AIB (AS)

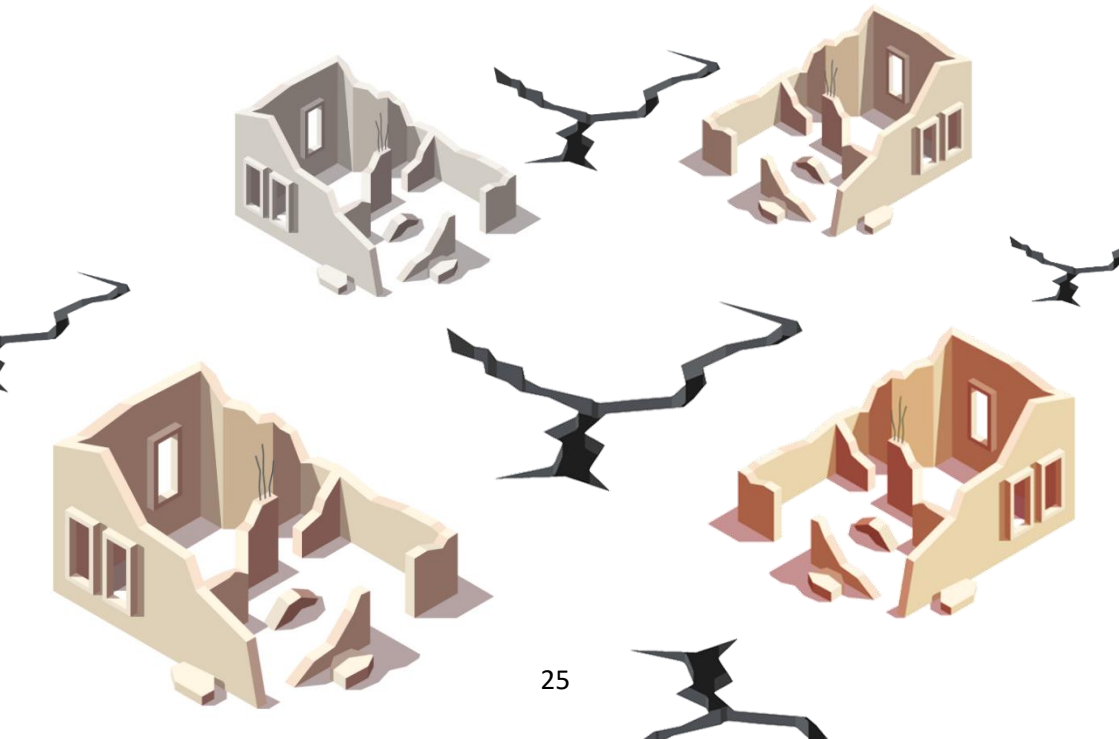
Midian has been mentioned 10 times in the Holy Quran. Hazrat Shuaib (as) was a Prophet of Allah sent to the people of Midian. He was sent as a warner who told the people of Midian to believe in the One God, Allah.

In Surah Al-'Ankubat, verse 37 of the Holy Quran, it states:

And to Midian *We sent* their brother Shu'aib who said, 'O my people, serve Allah, and fear the Last Day and commit not iniquity in the earth, creating disorder.

In Surah Hud, verse 95 of the Holy Quran we read that those that disbelieved were punished with an earthquake:

And when Our command came, We saved Shu'aib and those who had believed with him by Our *special* mercy; and chastisement seized those who had done wrong, so that they lay prostrate in their houses



MOUNT SINAI

There are several mountains in the region called Mount Sinai and on one of these, God manifested Himself to Hazrat Musa (as).

HAZRAT MUSA (AS)

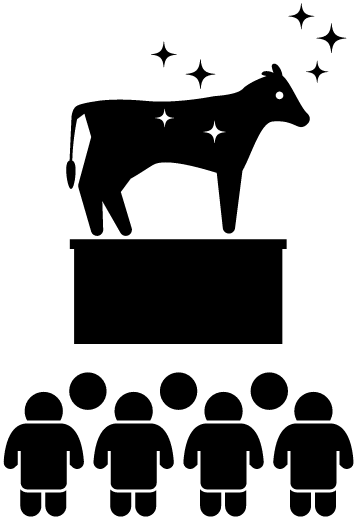
Remember the story of Hazrat Musa (as)? He went to Mount Sinai to pray for forty nights.

Hazrat Musa (as) instructed his brother, Hazrat Harun (as) to act on his behalf as leader of the Israelites whilst he went to Mount Sinai.

However, in the absence of Hazrat Musa (as), the Israelites were misled by *Samiri* and took a calf for worship.

This is mentioned in Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 52 of the Holy Quran:

And *remember the time* when We made Moses a promise of forty nights; then you took the calf *for worship* in his absence and you were transgressors.



PALESTINE

In Surah Al-Maidah, verse 22 it states:

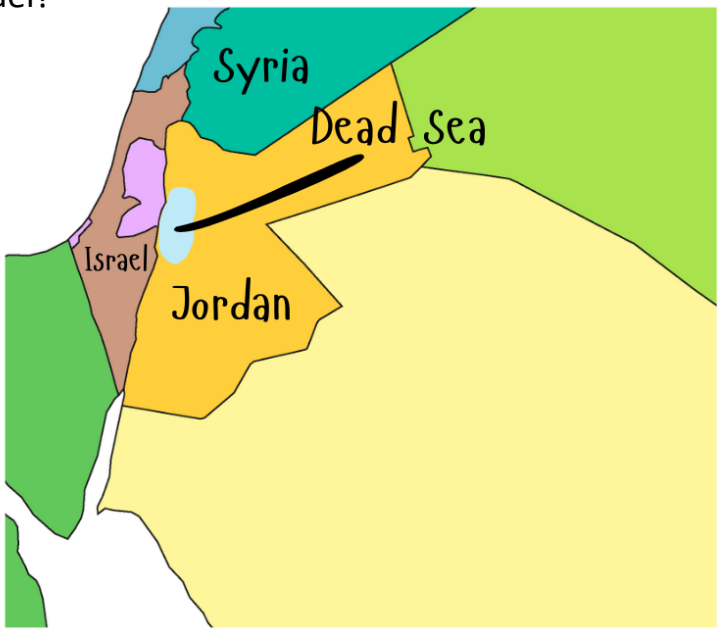
'O my people, enter the Holy Land which Allah has ordained for you and do not turn back, for then you will turn losers.'

Palestine is mentioned as the Holy Land in the Holy Quran. In this verse, it explains that God made a promise to the Israelites that if they stayed on the right path and did good deeds, then they would enter the Holy Land.

SODOM AND GOMORRAH

Sodom and Gomorrah are two towns that have been mentioned both in the Quran and Bible. They are thought to be located on the southern end of the Dead Sea.

Did you know that the Dead Sea is a Salt Lake between Jordan and Israel?



HAZRAT LUT (AS)

In Surah Al-Hijr, verse 74-76 it states:

Then the punishment seized them at sunrise. We turned it upside down, and We rained upon them stones of clay. Surely, in this are Signs for those who can read *signs*.

Hazrat Lut (as) was another Prophet of Allah, also known as Lot. He was the nephew of Hazrat Ibrahim (as)[3] and was sent as a warner to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, these places are also mentioned in the Old Testament.

These people had immoralities of extreme nature and

committed many bad deeds such as ridiculing the prophets, robbing from others and mistreating their neighbours. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed as a punishment from Allah. Allah the Almighty rained on them stones of clay.

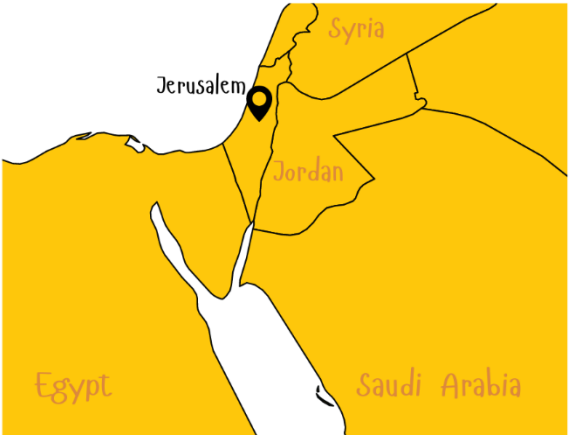
In Surah An-Najm, verse 54 it states:

"And He overthrew the subverted cities *of the people of Lot*,"

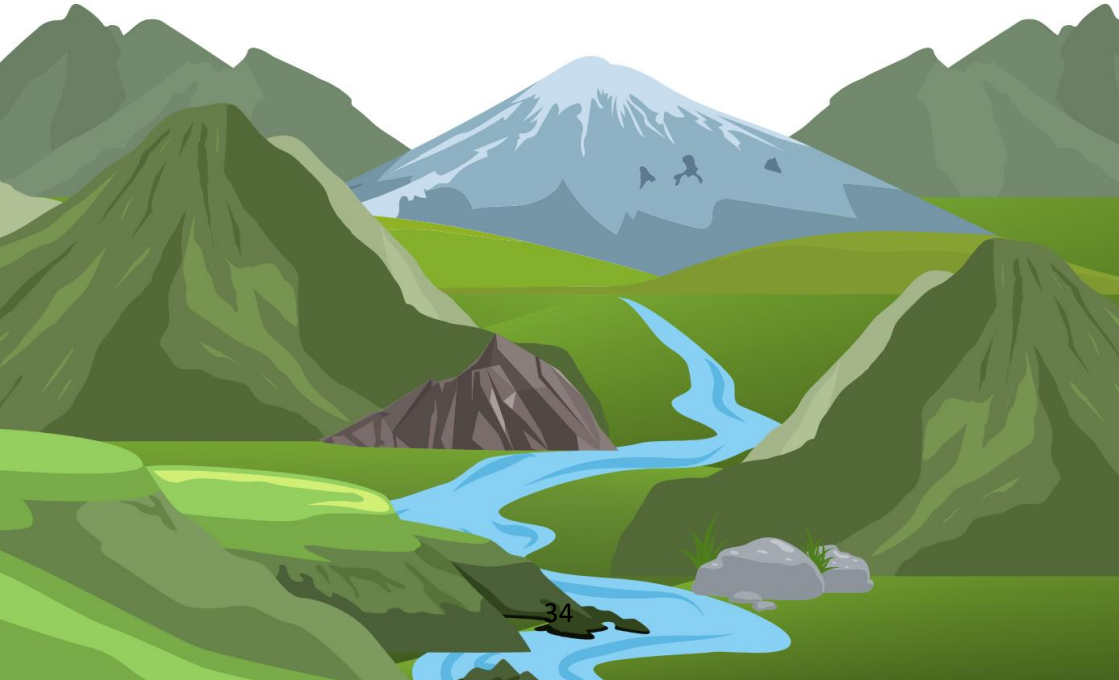
MIGRATION FROM MESOPOTAMIA TO CANAAN

Hazrat Ibrahim (as) journeyed from Ur (Mesopotamia) to Harran and from there, by God's command, to Canaan, which God had decreed to give to his posterity. This journey had a precise objective and aim. In pursuance of Divine plan and design, all the great Prophets or their followers, at one time or another, have to migrate from their homes. Hazrat Ibrahim (as) accompanied by Hazrat Lut (as) migrated from Mesopotamia to Canaan.

VALLEY OF NAML



Naml is the name of a tribe that lived near the Valley of An-Naml. This was a place near Jerusalem.



HAZRAT SULEMAN (AS)

In Surah An-Naml., verse 19 of the Holy Quran it states:

Until when they came to the Valley of Al-Naml, one woman *of the tribe* of the Naml said, 'O ye Naml, enter your habitations, lest Solomon and his hosts crush you, while they know not.'

Allah the Almighty gave Hazrat Suleman (as) the ability to make great conquests and win victories over his enemies.

Allah gave him the strength to take over these wild tribes and make them a part of his army, making it stronger. Once, when Hazrat Suleman (as) was approaching the Valley of an-Naml, a namlite (a leader of the Naml tribe) warned his fellow people to return to their homes to avoid being crushed by Hazrat Suleman (as) and his army. When Hazrat Suleman (as) heard this, he smiled and prayed to Allah, asking for Allah's blessings and mercy to be amongst the righteous servants.

STRENGTH

YEMEN

Before Christianity was founded, Yemen was governed by a tribe named ‘Adramitai.

HAZRAT HUD (AS)

In Surah Al-A'raf, verse 66 of the Holy Quran it states:

And unto 'Ad *We sent* their brother Hud

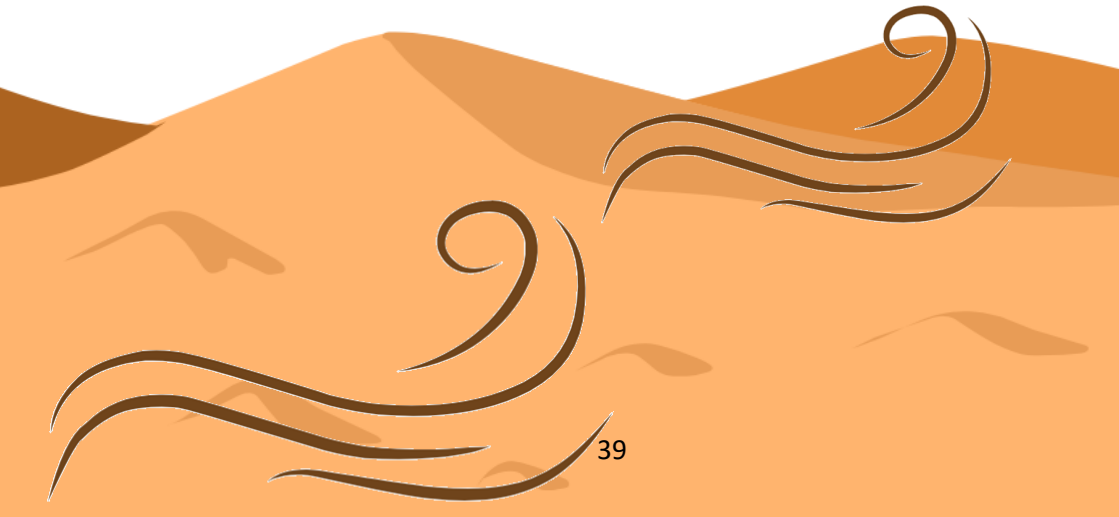
Hazrat Hud (as) was a Prophet of Allah sent to the People of Ad who lived in Yemen, Arabia. They were a tribe of people also known as Adites. They lived in sandhills and were known for having lofty buildings.

هود

When Hazrat Hud (as) came to the People of Ad with the message that Allah is One and should alone be worshipped, many people disbelieved. They were punished and destroyed by a strong wind that destroyed their buildings. The buildings were buried under sand.

In Surah al-Haqqah, verse 8 of the Holy Quran it states:

[The strong wind was] "caused to blow against them for seven nights and eight days consecutively"



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